(b) the details of the strategy that has been worked out under this new frame-work to double the exports of goods and services; and

(c) the details of the incentives and facilities that are proposed to be given to the industry to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The New Foreign Trade Policy takes an integrated view of the overall development of India's foreign trade. The objectives of the Foreign Trade Policy are two-fold—

(i) To double India's percentage share of global merchandise trade by 2009;

(ii) To act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation, especially in semi-urban and rural areas.

(b) and (c) The strategy for doubling India's export of goods and services is outlined in the Preamble to the Foreign Trade Policy. The details of the incentives and facilities to boost exports are also outlined in the 'Foreign Trade Policy' A copy of the Foreign Trade Policy is available in the Parliament Library for reference.

SAARC Conference

1013. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recently concluded SAARC Conference, he had called on the SAARC nations to build a strong framework of regional economic cooperation which should be workable and programme based; and

(b) if so, the response of the SAARC countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Minister of Commerce and Industry mentioned this in his Address to the Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Commerce Ministers held in Islamabad on 22-23 November, 2004 to underscore the need to make the SAARC more effective so as to enhance trade and commerce in the region.

(b) There was consensus among member-countries that negotiations on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement must proceed as per schedule so that it comes into force on 1st January 2006 as already agreed upon. Implementation of SAFTA Agreement will give a significant boost to economic activities in the region.

Import of elementary mercury

1014. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of elementary mercury has increased manifold during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of imports during the last three years; and

(c) the names of industries who are importing mercury and whether mercury is being used as consumer product and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. EUVNGOVAN) : (a) and (b) The details of import of mercury are as under:—

Year	Quantity (in tons)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	260.44	4.48
2002-03	531.20	8.66
2003-04	197.46	4.06

(c) Mercury is used by industries engaged in making thermometers, barometers, electrical contacts, arc rectifiers, automatic switches, mercury vapour lamps and mercury-vapour boilers of large power installation etc. It is also employed in the electrolytic preparation of chlorine, caustic soda, acetic acid and acetone etc.

India International Trade Fair

1015. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visitors in the International Trade Fair held from November 14,2004 this year;